

Program Administration

The day to day operation and long term planning of the Northeast Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program was directed by the Morris Arboretum and supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR), Bureau of Forestry through the State Forester, James Grace.

Program administrators from the Morris Arboretum were Bob Gutowski, Director, Public Programs, Brooks Mullahy, Associate Director, Center for Urban Forestry, and Donna Murphy, Program Coordinator. Anthony Santoli, Lackawanna District Forester represented the PA DCNR and Bob Neville, USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program Leader, provided state and federal guidance.



Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania Center for Urban Forestry

The Morris Arboretum is an educational institution and historic public garden that promotes understanding of the relationship between people and plants. The Arboretum's major activities are teaching, research, outreach, and display. The Arboretum and the USDA Forest Service have an effective and longtime partnership that dates back over 60 years and brings together the resources of an internationally known arboretum and the Forest Service. Each enhances the other's capacity to effectively deliver information and technical assistance to a broad range of constituents.

At the time of this program, the Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum was one of three Regional Centers of Excellence in urban forestry. These Centers conduct urban forestry advocacy, education, research, and demonstration programs serving local, state, and regional needs. As local, regional, and national resources, they provide information and services on a federal, state, and local level and to public and private organizations.

The Morris Arboretum Center for Urban Forestry provided program administrative services that included:

- directing the program,
- managing the grant proposals and evaluation process,
- administering sub-grants,
- monitoring grant performance,
- providing technical assistance to the projects,
- providing a local Program Coordinator, and
- providing a local program office.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR), Bureau of Forestry

“In an effort to conserve our natural resources, it is our mission to commit the Bureau of Forestry to partnership building, stewardship and service.”

John Oliver, DCNR Secretary

“As we move toward a new century, it is time to take stock of our resources and face the issues that will be affecting long-term health and productivity of our forests.”

James Grace, State Forester

The PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry’s support and assistance to the program was invaluable. Their support helped build partnerships and understanding at the federal, state, and local levels and is an excellent example of the Bureau’s commitment to partnership building, stewardship, and service. Assistance included all aspects of program planning, project review, technical assistance, and recognition of tree planting activities. Very few community forestry events were completed without the attendance of Smoky Bear and an educational demonstration by District Forester Anthony Santoli. The partnership ensured the long-term health and vitality of the projects, strengthened partnership building efforts, and promoted stewardship objectives.

The Bureau’s presence aided in the establishment of higher visibility for the program through communication channels, media relations, and active outreach. The experience and expertise of the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry resulted in easily accessible technical assistance with grant proposals, site assessment, design review, species selection, insect and disease identification, monitoring, Tree City USA applications, education, demonstration projects, and publications.

Penn State University Cooperative Extension Service

A number of grantees benefited from the assistance of the Penn State University Cooperative Extension Service through Urban Forester, Vincent Cotrone. Services focused on helping communities with active Shade Tree Commissions or Committees’ applications for Tree Liability and Assessment Grants and helping those communities implement their projects.

Grantees received plant selection assistance, inventory training, educational information, and hands-on assistance with volunteer plantings. A few of the Large Grant recipients received assistance with volunteer plantings, demonstrations, and assistance with stream-side restoration techniques. Penn State Extension Service worked with the local program coordinator by providing assistance with contractual problems, quality control, and soil issues. Educational handouts and product information were available to the program on a project need basis.

